

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION

Tuesday, September 26. 1710.

I Am now come to the Application of all the Story; I have laid it down as a Maxim in the publick Affairs — And I sum it up in short, thus.

That whoever they are that Appear in, Ad for, or Address to the present Government, are or will be, nay, must be *Whigs*, by the Nature of the Thing — That they can be no otherwise, unless they will Degenerate to Hypocrites, or Traytors.

It is without the least concern, who I shall please or displease, that I advance this Truth — Nor am I in the least pain about being put to the Proof of it — I shall never have any occasion to be put upon the Proof, the Gentlemen will prove it for me.

— Every Transaction in the Publick Affairs, will be a Testimony of it — The Clergy of *London* have given Abundant Testimony of it already, in their late Address — And the Ministers of State, Parliament, Queen, every Body that has any Thing to do in the Publick, must, and will confirm it.

What tho' the Clergy of this City have in their Sermons talk'd another Language, Printed another Stile, cry'd up the Tory Doctrines of Non-Resistance, and Divine Hereditary Right? — Whatever Excesses some of them may have run into that Way — Let them answer for them; you see when they come in a Body, when they come

come to speak to their Sovereign, they are bound to come directly to the matter of Fact — Own Legal Provisions against Tyranny, own they have Resisted their Princes, and that it is Lawful to do so again, if they degenerate into Tyrants, and Exercise an Arbitrary Authority.

And what else could they say to the Queen? — Could they come and say, Madam, we bear our Testimony against Resistance of Princes on any pretence whatsoever? Could they say, Madam, we join with our Friends of the Town of *Minehead*, in *Somersetshire*, who in their Address, told your Majesty that it was against Reason and Scripture, for Subjects to Resist their Governours, tho' in case of Tyranny and Oppression? — Durst the Clergy of *London*, with the Bish — of at the Head of them, have said thus to her Majesty? Had not this been to have said, MADAM, we disown the Revolution as an Act of Rebellion, and declare, that the Princess *Anne* of *Danemark*, the Bishop of *London* — and all of us, sh^e join'd in Arms against Popery, and Arbitrary Power, in the late King *James's* Reign, were Traytors and Rebels against their Lawful Sovereign — Whom they Resisted, against Reason and Scripture? — Would this be fit Language to the Queen? Could they come to her Majesty with an Address of this kind?

No, no; Constrain'd by Truth of Fact, and the Justice, Reason, and Consequence of Things, they come, like an honest Christian Clergy, they pay a due Homage to her Majesty, but Recognize the Justice of RESISTING Popery and Arbitrary Power, in the Person of her Royal Father, bless God from the bottom of their Hearts, as indeed they have abundans Reason to do, for the LEGAL PROVISIONS in our Constitution, which make that Resistance Lawful — And PROMISE a due Obedience to those Laws for the future, in doing their Duty against any Prince, that shall offer to Tyrannize again.

How Wonderful and Irresistible is the Power of Truth! — That forces its Way out of the Mouths of Men; in spite of all their Resolution to the contrary —

If any High-Flying Rampant Priest like *Balaam*, came to this Assembly, with a Design to Curse the *Israel* of God — When he came there, 'tis apparent he was overrul'd by the Power and Spirit of Truth, like that old Sorcerer, to speak against himself, and Condemn under his Hand to his Sovereign, what he had been Wicked enough to affront her with in the Pulpit — And two observations I have to make from it, upon the High Gentlemen that appear'd in this Address.

1. There's not a Clergyman that has affirm'd in the Pulpit, the utter Illegality of Resistance of the Sovereign, on any pretence whatsoever, but has thereby call'd the present Queen, (then a Subject) the Bishop of *London*, and all the Clergy who withstood Popery and Arbitrary Power, in the Reign of King *James*, REBELS and TRAITORS.
2. There's not a Clergyman of the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, who formerly attested the Doctrine of Non-Resistance. and since sign'd the late Address, or what, according to a Noble Custom in *Scotland*, in making Satisfaction for Slander — Has taken himself by the Tongue in the Face of the World, and said — FALSE TONGUE, THOU LIEDST.

And now, Gentlemen, what do we infer from all this? — My Inference is plain; The Clergy have, the Ministry must, and all that are concern'd in the Government will come into my Denomination of *Whigs* — They must do so, or fly in their Sovereign's Face, Recognize the Pretender, Condemn the Revolution, abhor the Protestant Succession, and bow their Knee to Idolatry.

This makes me, I confess, less Anxious about putting in and putting out, New Ministry and Old, Dissolving Parliaments, and the like: If any Tories are put into Places, if any Mad-Men get Preferments — If White-staves, or Black-staves either, are put into Hands you don't like, be not anxious

anxious, they have no Room to Add the Principles they may have profess'd — The Government stands upon a Revolution Foundation, and upon nothing else — The Queen Reigns upon the Throne, *qua Abdicated* — Her Majesty's Right, however Mereditary as I have explain'd, is also Parliamentary — Or away goes your Queen, Laws, Ministry and all.

This is so plain, that those People that suggest the Overthrow of our Constitution, from the Turns now making in the Government, are fain to make the homeliest Suggestion to support it, that ever came into any Rational Head to imagin, *viz.* That the Queen is willing to bring in the Pretender, That her Majesty will demit, dethrone herself, and set-up the Object of her Royal Contempt and Aversion.

What any Prince may be drawn into blindly, what betray'd in, or deliver'd up to, is *one Thing*, and in that I cannot Answer for any Body; but what is done willingly and knowingly, is another Thing — The first has been the Fate of very good Princes in the World but too often, and none is secur'd from Treason — Nor does putting *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* into Power, seem to be the best Step to secure us against it, *but that is not the Case here* — To be willing to be Betray'd, to consent to be Depos'd, to join in the Confederacy, this is a Lunacy too gross to speak of, and serves only to Convince us, that there is no clear Argument on their Side.

Let her Majesty's Enemies, and the Pretenders to the Crown, stay where they are, but till the Queen is willing to send for them to accept of the Crown — And we will all be content; and 'tis time enough to talk of these Things, if ever Heaven in Judgment to the Nation, should visit her Majesty with some Distemper, some Lunacy, something that should affect her Senses — But till then, this is a piece of Absurdity worth no Answer at all — And they that promote it, merit to be very ill Treated on every Side.

Princes — never part with Royal Dignities, the Crowns of Sovereigns are too Sa-

cred to themselves, and make too deep an Impression upon their Affections, to suffer them to give them up to any Body, till they can keep them no longer.

While then the Queen is willing to possess the Crown, willing to hold the Scepter of *Britain*, and Govern the People, God has in his Providence given to her Royal Charge; so long as her Majesty will keep entire the Power, so long she will preserve the Foundation on which it stands — *And that is the Revolution.*

The Revolution is to the present Government, what the Animal Spirits are to the Body — While the Blood flows, and the Spirits are kept in Regular Motion, the Body remains Sound, in Health, Active, Vigorous, Flourishing, and Fair; but if the Circulation is stop'd, and the Blood stagnates, the Countenance falls, the Bloom of the Face fades, the Vigour and Strength of the Limbs decay, Diseases take hold, the Humours flow instead of the Spirits, the Body languishes, grows Feeble, Sick and Dies — The Revolution is the vital Principle, by which the present Government Acts, and Moves; while the Laws are open, Justice Circulates, and Limited Authority join'd with Liberty, go Hand in Hand; the Constitution thrives, the People Trade, the Prince Guides, and both in Peace, with Love, Unity, and Satisfaction — But if the Foundation is Undermin'd, if the Revolution is Condemn'd — Right dies, Justice stops, Law sickens, and the Government Languishes; if the Revolution is disown'd, if the Constitution then settled, is disclaim'd, the whole Fabrick Totters; if the Revolution was a Rebellion, the Queen must be an Usurper.

This all comes Home to our Point.

Whoever comes into the Ministry, or into the Church, or into the Parliament, must Recognize the Revolution, and carry on the Administration, on that Foundation — If they do not, we have another Language to talk to them, and of them — For let not Governours flatter themselves, nor People be dismay'd, the Revolution can not be overthrow'd in *Britain* — It is not in the Power either of Ministry, Party, Prince,

Prince, or Parliament to do it ; whoever will Govern here, must Maintain the Revolution, and by Consequence, as I have said all along, must be *Whigs* — And let Parliaments be Dissolv'd, or Ministry Chang'd as often as they will, they can never Dissolve or Change this, the Nature of the Thing is against them; they must all

come over to *Whiggism*, and the Revolution, or be Hypocrites to God, and Traytors to their Country.

There remains an odd Question to speak to — What if they will not be all *Whigs*? Of which hereafter.

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